



Solutions discussed

for NOTL health care, should hospital close

3



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What's Christmas without Scrooge?



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

At St. Mark's Church, Gabrielle Jones, Rev. Bob Wright, Mike Tansley and Peter Millard prepare for Sunday's reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol. For story please see Page 4.

Solutions to hospital closure in the works

Doctors with offices in hospital say they will remain in the community

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Maria Bau-Coote is a town councillor, but it's her hat as executive director of the local family health team that she wears at meetings of a community committee that has been charged with looking at options for the future of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital.

The Wellington Street site has been home to the hospital for more than six decades, with a declining range of services in the past 20 years. Now it's time to decide how residents can be served if the hospital doors close.

This is the second committee with similar goals: the first was formed by the town in reaction to Dr. Kevin Smith's recommendations to the Ministry of Health for improving the Niagara Health System, which included a second new hospital to replace the remaining facilities.

See Page 3

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'Penguins' will take to the water as part of their annual Penguin Dip

Looking like a good year weather-wise

Melissa Mangelsen
Niagara Advance

A group of brave men and women will take a plunge into the Niagara River on Boxing Day as part of the annual Penguin Dip at Balls Beach.

The swimmers may have a bit of a break this year, as temperatures have been warmer than in the past, but long-time swimmer Lorne Bjorgan said the water should be around 32 degrees.

Lorne said that he first participated in the Penguin Dip for fun.

"It was a tradition we

started back in the '70s. We had the idea of the Polar Bear Club, who go in once. We wanted to outdo them, so we enter the water three times," he said.

The first time they stay in for about 20 seconds, the second for 25 to 30 seconds and the third time he described as slow and painful, where they slowly walk in backwards.

"It's a bit of a shock when you first get in even if you've done it before and you know what to expect," he said.

"By your third time in the water feels burning hot, like it's boiling."

The event has grown over the years to include about 30 people, though organizer Chris Bjorgan said they won't know the exact number until the actual day of the event.

The first year it was just a handful of guys and it has

grown from there to be an annual tradition.

The swim takes place where the Niagara River meets Lake Ontario.

Lorne has been participating in the swim since the beginning, missing only three years.

"It's a really fun thing to be a part of," he said.

Chris said they see new people each year, and that people have to participate for three years before they become penguins.

Each year, the numbers have been increasing and this year may follow the trend due to the weather.

"There have been some years where we've had to cut holes in the ice to get into the water. This year looks like it's going to be good," said Chris.

The group will meet at 12:30 p.m., and enter the water at 1 p.m.



Penguin Swim organizer Chris Bjorgan (centre) celebrates the third dip in last year's swim, also in mild weather, with about 30 other penguins.

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No need for patients to fear doctors leaving town

From Page 1

This committee is community-driven, says Bau-Coote, and has a slightly different set-up.

They are looking at two areas—the future delivery of community health-care services, as well as the fate of NOTL's current hospital site. Their intention is to be proactive, should the province formalize an intention to close the doors of the local hospital, as recommended by Dr. Smith in his report.

March has been set as a goal by which to complete a draft business plan, tied to the opening of the new hospital as a possible time when the ministry could announce its plans for the NOTL site.

But, Bau-Coote says, they have no information on when to have that meeting—just needed an end-date as a goal and that seemed a likely time to expect some news from the province.

Also on the committee are Lord Mayor Dave Eke, Councillor Terry Flynn, and Doctors David Reimer, Karen Berti, Buk Jimoh and Andrew Smith, all members of the health team, Brenda Jones, president of the NOTL Hospital Foundation, and Moyra McEachern, president of the NOTL Hospital Auxiliary, also sit on the committee.

Their very early discussions about the future of the NOTL site have included whether there are private companies or public agencies that could offer long term or respite care, and whether the community could or should continue to offer diagnostic services,

laboratory, X-ray and ultrasound departments—services that all residents could benefit from, not just those who are patients of the local family health team doctors who have offices in town.

"We are looking at what makes sense for our community—there is lots that would be nice to have, but what do we really need," says Bau-Coote.

The Niagara Health System and the LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) are supplying much-needed information and are on board with the goals of the committee, she says.

For example, the committee knows now that if the NHS sells the building, it will be at fair market value, which is important information to have if the site is going to continue in use—that and the fact that it costs about \$500,000 a year to operate the building, without

adding the cost of any of the services that are provided.

"We want to make sure where we're coming from is in line with the LHIN and the NHS. We're trying to do this right. It's one thing to have pie in the sky ideas, and they may be at this point, but we also need to know what kind of finances we'll need and whether there's interest from the private sector."

Once they have the information they need, they hope to develop a business plan that will be ready if and when there is a date set to close the hospital doors.

"We're not going to wait for a decision and then see a 'for sale' sign go up on the lawn."

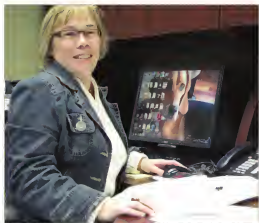
They also want to be ready with some ideas for a future location of the doctors who now have offices in the basement of the hospital—

they are not planning on moving away.

"It's really important for people to understand none of the doctors are leaving the area. Nobody has to fear that their doctors are going. Everyone is committed to staying in the community."

Whether that means under one roof at a central location, or whether, if the hospital building continues to offer some form of health care, the doctors can stay where they are, has yet to be determined.

"We don't know where they're going. We do know there is a lot of interest for more specialists as part of the family health team, for other allied health services who want to be part of the family health team. That's very positive, and there's no doubt that over the next five, 10 or 15 years it's going to grow, but we have to wait to see what makes sense."



Family Health Team executive director Maria Bau-Coote

If it turns out the answer is to have everyone who is part of the family health team under one roof, that won't happen without planning for those who will need transportation, she says.

"There are a lot of decisions to make before we get to that stage," says Bau-Coote. "We want to be the community that others will look to and say, 'see what NOTL has accomplished,' what others will point to as a model for their community."

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a world of
holiday cheer!

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of love gently
fill our hearts &
homes. Holiday
Greetings!

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bring you much
Prosperity
and Happiness.

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May your
home be filled
with love,
prosperity and
charity.

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Wishing a
Healthy and
Happy 2013
to all!

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to others is the
Joy that comes
back to you.
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*Susan
House***

Unwrap
yourself a
wonderful
Christmas
and 2013!

*Nina
Mandeville**

May your home
be filled with love
& laughter. Merry
Christmas and
Happy New Year!

*Diane
Stewart**

Rejoice in the Spirit of Christmas,
which is **Peace**, the Miracle of
Christmas, which is **Hope**, and the
Heart of Christmas, which is **Love**!

*Angela
McMillan**

*Jesse
Snoei**

Sincerest wishes to you and your
loved ones for a home filled with
Peace & Joy this Holiday Season.
Good Health & Prosperity
in the New Year!

*Jean
Page**

*Randy
Page**

Patrick, Jim and Liana would like to wish one
and all a safe, warm and relaxing holiday season.
Seasons Greetings, Happy Holidays and a very
Merry Christmas from THEbTEAM.

*Liana
Romana**

*Patrick
Burke**

*James
Braderich**

Wishing you
Joy and Peace
the whole
year through!

*Doug
Rempel**

opinion page

Niagara Advance

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our editorial

Are we feeling stressed, or serene, at Christmas?

Take a deep breath. Then take another. Feeling better? If only it were that simple.

For most of us, as much as we love Christmas, having family gathered around, the eating, the drinking, the memories and magical moments—as much as we would love to love the holiday, we find ourselves feeling more stress than the serenity we would like to feel.

We know how fortunate we are, we know there are those much less so, some who are experiencing real sorrow, but still... we feel stressed. So much to

do, so little time to do it. Just a few more days until Christmas, and then we really can all take that deep breath and make the most of our holiday.

Whether we celebrate the birth of a child born centuries ago, or just being together with those we love, we can make this a time of peace, of kindness, of thinking of others, rather than of all we have to do.

Have a lovely Christmas, a safe holiday, and enjoy a few days of calm and tranquility. And when the holidays are over, let's try to hold on to that feeling just a little bit longer.

letters to the editor

Canadians too should worry about guns

We share the grief of our American cousins, at the senseless shooting of defenceless, little children and teachers, by a deranged gunman.

That guns of all types, are readily available over the counter, or privately in the United States is horrific.

But we here in Canada should be very concerned at the attitude of the Federal government towards guns.

Despite the RCMP and all the chiefs of police stating it was assisting them, the government cancelled the long gun registry to placate some Conservative supporters.

Now a panel recruited by the office of Public Safety, Minister Vic Toews, has made recommendations that would further water down federal control

of firearms. These changes have been urged by this panel, which comprises of firearms experts and dealers.

Despite Prime Minister Stephen Harper saying he was very concerned about the proposals, Toews' office is actively considering them.

I think we are all aware of this governments duplicity on many fronts. The F35 comes to mind.

However we should all be concerned as I am. But despite contacting Rob Nicholson, our MP and Attorney General of Canada, someone we would think would be concerned, I, as usual, have not received any reply.

It is time to let this atrocious government know that we must be consulted and that we are very troubled about their abandonment of our democracy.

Or is it that you, and they, really don't care? Just asking.

Jeff Powell

Christmas is a time for memories, so enjoy them

Real or artificial, Christmas trees are best when decorated with memories



Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

The Christmas tree - are you a purist who has to have a real tree?

I used to be but did not like the idea of the tree dying.

We tried the potted tree but since we were in Quebec and it could be late March before the ground thawed it was not a good idea, so the artificial tree was the solution, and now they make such a good job of them you have to touch to check if they are real or not.

I love Christmas and all it means so decorating was a big thing for me and

much my tree was full of happy memories.

There is the Santa wearing a kilt, a present from South Carolina from a friend who died last month; a shiny silver one of a dog sled which we brought back from Alaska; a 'star' from a kindergarten project by one of our children; and the Snow-Woman who looks as though she is made out of icing sugar; a gift from a Quebec friend who really baked up a storm before Christmas.

And then there is the wooden elf who wears wire rimmed glasses and a red felt hat - he was a gift from Eric, one of my pre-school pupils - he had very 'twinkly' eyes which made you wonder what he had just been up to.

Then I realize all going

well Eric is a grown man with his own 'little terrors' with twinkly eyes. All of this is tied together with strings of 'pearls' which my daughter and her friend Mary Jane rescued from the garbage of a jewelry making business who was in the same complex as Mary-Jane's brother's sail-making business.

Oh the treasures.

I always felt sorry for the people who have to co-ordinate their tree with their new décor.

Christmas is a memory time.

So may you all have a good time remembering all the good Christmases and make lots of new ones and be glad you live in such a wonderful place where we can grow all sorts of wonderful things again next year.

Happy gardening.

Defenders of the Town



April Brunet of Vintage Hotels accepts a Defender of the Town plaque from Tony Chisholm, as Vintage becomes the newest defender with their generous sponsorship of the War of 1812 Bicentennial events in 2013.

It's impossible to feel joy this holiday season without thought for those who won't

When people ask me if this is a busy time of year, the answer is, of course, yes—but I add that it's a good kind of busy, both at home and at work, as we prepare to celebrate the holiday season.

It's especially so in our beautiful town, decorated in holiday finery and with so many wonderful Christmas events, but I think the best part of my job this time of year is the opportunity to attend our local school concerts, among other nervousness evident in their body language, others grinning from ear to ear with the pleasure of it all. And in the audience, parents and grandparents bursting with pride, as well they should be.



Penny Coles
Editor's Notebook

It's a different world from when my kids went to school in NOTL—Laura Secord, now closed, St. David's, expanded and looking fresh and new, and Niagara District, empty of teenagers and looking forlorn, if not exactly deserted.

I have always loved the small-town feel of our com-

munity schools, the sense of being welcomed into a family. I felt fortunate that my kids had an opportunity to attend school in such a cozy, comfortable environment, and I still feel that warmth and hospitality when I enter one of our schools.

Some things have changed, of course. Any visitor, whether parent or outsider, must buzz to be admitted, and must sign in. I hear some parents weren't happy when that particular safe schools policy was implemented. I bet they are now.

It can't be an easy time to be a teacher.

I am not going to weigh in on the labour dispute. Teachers want more money—teachers are giving up money. It's about greedy unions, it's about a premier

making an example of greedy unions. I don't know who's right. I don't think here in our community, teachers would rather be at school with their kids than not, would rather hold their Christmas concerts and participate in the Christmas parade and carry on with many of the traditional activities the union has made off-limits—for the sake of their kids.

However, job action concerns must pale in comparison with what our teachers are going through this week.

Are they worried about whether their community schools are safe? Are they asking themselves whether what happened in a small, close-knit community such as Newtown, Connecticut could happen here? Are they wondering whether they

could be as brave, as noble, if our kids were threatened?

Would they be heroes? Of course, they would. Our kids are their kids. Our teachers are heroes each and every day.

I don't understand the strike. I certainly don't understand what happened in Newtown—who possibly could? But I do understand what our teachers do for our kids.

One of the most poignant remarks I heard on the news this weekend—a weekend when the news was moving and heart-breaking and wretched—was from a dad who raced to his son's school to find him outside, being led with his classmates to a safe place by his teacher.

The dad ran to his son and hugged him, so grateful

to see him unharmed. But he said, the tears streaming down his face, that when he heard what the teacher had done to save her kids, he wished he'd thought to hug her—for without her bravery, he wouldn't have a son.

I find this week I can't wish people a Merry Christmas without an accompanying sadness, reminded of those who will have the worst Christmas of their lives—parents, teachers, their families who may never again have a happy Christmas.

So I wish a Merry Christmas to our community, and especially to our teachers, knowing that we will all be thinking of others less fortunate and in our hearts, sending a hug their way.

Every heart prepare His room this Christmas—open your hearts and invite Him in

An enlarged heart is a Christmas wish this year

Not sure if this is a true story or a joke, but I heard that a heart surgeon was at the garage to pick up his recently serviced Mercedes.

While waiting, a brass mechanic said, "Hey, doc, you and I do similar work. I take this engine apart, work on the valves, repair, replace, make sure there's proper oil flow - give it new life. Just like you, I work on the heart of the engine. Only you get the big bucks." The surgeon gently looked to the mechanic and said,



Rick Mills
Life Abundant Church
Consider this

"Try doing it with the engine running."

Over the past few years I've had a handful of friends and family members go through heart bypass surgery.

Amazing that our physical existence depends on a fist sized, blood engorged muscle pumping blood

throughout our bodies, from womb to grave.

Just recently, a dear friend was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery after suffering a heart attack. He is blessed to have made it this far. I was with the family when the doctor came out after surgery to report his status.

I looked at her in awe as she explained what was found, what was done and how she did it. This doctor literally had my friend's heart and life in her hands. While she was talking, and creatively describing the surgery ("an artery this way, taking another and bringing it over the top instead of going across"), I couldn't help but remember my son fighting with a jumbled string of lights on our

Christmas tree the night before. Only she seemed a lot less stressed than we did with the Christmas lights. Remarkable.

Referred to as the place where the real you exists, the word heart is used many times in scripture. Our core.

Here are a few just key verses of scripture: Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs every issue of life; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also; as a man thinks in his heart, so he is. The abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Even in everyday communication we refer to the heart as more than just a life sustaining pump: Don't lose heart; a job was performed half-heartedly; get-

ting to the heart of the matter; we put walls up around our heart; bless their hearts; he wears his heart on his sleeve, let's have a heart to heart discussion, etc.

In the natural an enlarged heart is not a good thing. In the spiritual, it is. The psalmist writes, "I will run the course of my commandments, when you enlarge my heart." Note it doesn't say that we have to run the course of His commandments first, then He will enlarge our hearts. No, it takes His enlarging of our hearts first. It's this that gives us the desire and ability to follow as He leads.

Just absolutely love this verse because it tells me that we can't walk in newness of life unless the Lord enlarges our heart. So how

does that happen? We invite Him in. We open our heart to Him just as we do within an intimate relationship. Only deeper. The apostle Paul calls it believing in our heart. It's just as the 300 year old Christmas carol pronounces, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let us receive our King! Let every heart prepare Him room." Religion doesn't change a heart. A relationship does. Emmanuel - God with us. Jesus changes the heart.

want this to be at the top of my Christmas wish list - an enlarged heart. Yup, I want to be found just like my buddy did a few weeks ago, at the mercy of one who has my heart in His hands.

Merry Christmas.

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Everyone at NOTLHydro would like to thank those who donated to our annual Toy & Food Drive. Your help will ensure that NOTL families have a more enjoyable holiday season. **Happy Holidays from NOTLHydro!**

NOTL Hydro Holiday Hours: Our regular office hours are 9:30am to 4:30pm. 24-hour emergency service will still be available, please call 905.468.4235. Our drop box will still available for cheque payments.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
24th Closed	25th Closed	26th Closed	27th Open	28th Open
31st Closed	1st Closed	2nd Open	3rd Open	4th Open

Niagara receives facelift – hosts Christmas book sale and 1812 art

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library recently received a face lift and is looking fine.

The strucc just below the roof line was redone and the flashing capped to ensure the new finish stays fresh and clean. We've also done



Cathy Simpson
@ the library

some work inside.

CDs and DVDs have moved beside the local history room to make browsing easier. Movies and TV series are now separated to make finding what you want much quicker.

We also have some new

art on display. Winners of the 1812 Bicentennial Expressions art competition have loaned us their work and it's now on display throughout the library. The works include oil and mixed media paintings, a quilt and photographs.

A big thank you to Rob Santillan, owner of the Second Cup Café in the community centre for sponsoring the first annual "Picture with Santa" library fundraiser. Santa made an appearance at Second Cup and posed with boys and

girls, both naughty and nice. More than \$100 was raised to purchase new books for the children's French collection. We appreciate his efforts and thank everyone who made donations.

See Page 27



The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Garrison Village Phase III East, Blocks 8 & 9, 30M-402

PURPOSE

Draft plan approval for a common elements condominium for the private laneways servicing the dwelling units on Part of Blocks 8 & 9, 30M-402 to allow a number of land owners to share ownership, maintenance and administration of the laneways. The draft plan of condominium refers only to the laneways and does not propose any changes to the previously granted approvals for the subdivisions.

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: January 14, 2013
Time: 7:30 PM or as soon as possible thereafter
Place: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Administrative Offices Council Chambers 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario



WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing, or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information please contact Lola Emberson, Development Planner, Community and Development Services at 905 468-3266 ext 258 or lemberson@notl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Towns website at www.notl.org

LEGAL NOTICE

Section 51 of the Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council to the Ontario Municipal Board. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submission to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing or an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there is reasonable grounds to do so. If you wish to be notified of the decision of Town Council in respect to the proposed by-law you must make a written request to the Town Clerk.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 19th day of December 2012.



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE 2012-2013 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SKATING SCHEDULE

All Public Skating Sessions are Held in the Meridian Credit Union Arena From 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Saturday, December 22	Public Skating	Regular Admission Applies
Sunday, December 23	Public Skating	Regular Admission Applies
Monday, December 24	FREE Public Skating	Courtesy of Tim Horton's
Tuesday, December 25	CLOSED	
Wednesday, December 26	FREE Public Skating	Courtesy of Tim Horton's
Thursday, December 27 - Saturday, December 29	Minor Hockey Tournament - Both Arenas	
Sunday, December 30	FREE Public Skating	Courtesy of Tim Horton's
Monday, December 31	FREE Public Skating	Courtesy of Tim Horton's
Tuesday, January 1, 2013	CLOSED	
Wednesday, January 2	Public Skating	Regular Admission Applies
Thursday, January 3	Public Skating	Regular Admission Applies
Friday, January 4	Public Skating	Regular Admission Applies

2013 Regular Public Skating Schedule with Admission

Starting Saturday January 5, and continues every Saturday and Sunday 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM thereafter.



for more information please see www.notl.org





The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 905-468-3266

www.nottl.org

HOLIDAY TRANSIT SCHEDULE Dec. 24, 2012 to Jan. 1, 2013



Mon. Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) - Regular Service
Tue. Dec. 25 (Christmas Day) - No Service
Wed. Dec. 26 (Boxing Day) - No Service
Thurs. Dec. 27 - Regular Service
Fri. Dec. 28 - Regular Service
Sat. Dec. 29 - Regular Service
Mon. Dec. 31 (New Years Eve) - Regular Service
Tues. Dec. 1 (New Years Day) - No Service

For more information call (905) 468-3278

Please note that there are no Niagara College (Glenora) transit service connections from December 13, 2012 - January 2, 2013.

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS

December 24 - 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon - Offices Open
December 25 to January 1 - Offices Closed
January 2, 2013 - All Town Offices open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Public Works inquiries should be directed to **905-468-3278** during this time. If there is an emergency, please call 911.

Please see the Christmas Holiday Skating Schedule in this paper or visit the Town's website (www.nottl.org).

On behalf of Town Council and staff, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family!



COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 • www.nottl.org • 905-468-3266

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Niagara Stone Road - Zoning Change

PROPOSED CHANGE

Rezone Part 1 to Agriculture Purposes Only (APO) Zone to preclude its' use for residential purposes.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Input on any proposed zoning change is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Town.

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: January 14, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM or as soon as possible thereafter

Place: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Administrative Offices
Council Chambers

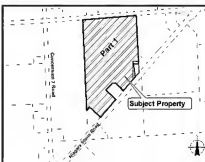
1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing, or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information please contact Kay Grant, Planner II at 905-468-3266, extension 297 or kgrant@nottl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Town's website at www.nottl.org.



COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 • www.nottl.org • 905-468-3266

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

428 Line 2 Road - Zoning Change

PROPOSED CHANGE

Rezone the subject lands shown as Part 1 and Part 2 from Residential Development (RD) to Residential (R2) to permit residential uses and to allow an existing accessory structure to remain on Part 2.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Input on any proposed zoning change is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Town.

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: January 14, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM or as soon as possible thereafter

Place: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Administrative Offices
Council Chambers

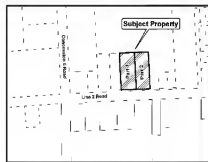
1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing, or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information please contact Lola Emberson, Development Planner at 905-468-3266, extension 258 or lamberson@nottl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Town's website at www.nottl.org.



LEGAL NOTICE

Section 34 of the Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make and submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this notice is posted, the person or public body is not entitled to request the decision of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council or the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make and submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this notice is posted, the person or public body may not be able to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board or the Ontario Municipal Board in the event of the Town's decision. There is no reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town Council or request to be added to the notice you must submit a written request to the Town Clerk.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 19th day of December 2012.

LEGAL NOTICE

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If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town Council or request to be added to the notice you must submit a written request to the Town Clerk.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 19th day of December 2012.

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Community has been blessed in 2012

➤ NOTL continues to experience economic growth



From the desk of
**Lord Mayor
Dave Eke**

It's hard to believe another Christmas season is upon us.

This year has been exceptionally busy and like all of you, I look forward to sharing this time with my family and friends as we celebrate our many blessings and good fortune.

In many ways, our community has also been blessed this year. Despite a prolonged global, economic recovery, Niagara-on-the-Lake continues to experience real economic growth. Recently, the Ontario Municipal Board cleared the way

for the 2014 opening of a \$178 million retail development in Glendale – the Outlet Collection at Niagara.

When completed, it will be the largest outdoor shopping mall in Canada and a major tourist gateway for our area.

We also welcomed the ground-breaking for the new Marine Security

Operations Centre in Glendale, the opening of two new micro-brewery operations, the Ina Grafton Seniors Residence, and final approval for the Two Sisters Winery.

Furthermore, St. David's Hydroponics, one of the largest growers of European bell peppers and eggplants, is launching a multi-million dollar expansion of its facility in St. David's for completion in 2014.

2012 was a very productive year on a number of other fronts, including the official start of our War of 1812 Bicentennial commemoration, the launch of Niagara-on-the-Lake Transit, and construction of the Virgil Sports Park splashpad and Pavilion scheduled to open in June of 2013.

The Town administration offices also acquired a new look this year, with the official opening of our new one-stop service counter and a comprehensive move to improve communications with our residents – from an enhanced, more user-friendly website to an improved budget process and the introduction of our very first Annual Report.

While there is still more work to be done, these developments bode well for the future health and well-being of our community, and I look forward to providing you with further updates in 2013.

On behalf of Town Council, I wish you and your family good health, much happiness, and meaningful fellowship during this holiday season and the year ahead.

Warmest Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for the Coming Year

From Lord Mayor Dave Eke, Members of Council and Staff of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake



From left to right: Jim Collard, Terry Flynn, Maria Bau-Coote, Gary Zalepa, Lord Mayor Dave Eke, Dennis Dick, Martin Mazza, Andrea Kaiser, Jamie King



Tips will help to keep residents safe from fires over the holiday season

Fire Chief gives tips for 12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety in your home



Alex Burbridge
Fire Chief

Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Chief Alex Burbridge wants families to be safe over the holiday season. He encourages residents to practise the 12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety in your home, and make this a holiday season without a fire in town.

Day 1: Water fresh trees daily.

Day 2: Check all sets of lights before decorating.

Day 3: Make sure you have working smoke alarms. Remember, they wear out, so replace them every 10 years.

Day 4: Make sure you have working carbon monoxide alarms. Remember,

they wear out so replace them every seven to 10 years, depending on the manufacturer.

Day 5: Make sure everyone knows how to get out safely if a fire occurs. Practise a fire escape plan.

Day 6: Use extension cords wisely. Make sure they never go under a rug.

Day 7: Give space heaters space. Keep them one metre (three feet) away from anything that can burn.

Day 8: When you go out,

blow out. Blow out all candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 9: Keep matches and

lighters out of the sight and reach of children.

Day 10: Watch what you heat, and stay alert when

you are cooking.

Day 11: Encourage smokers to read outside.

Day 12: There's more to

responsible drinking than taking a cab home. Alcohol is a common factor in many fatal fires.

Drinking and driving message not getting through

Dan Dakin
QMI Agency

up in crashes because they make the decision to get behind the wheel after drinking too much.

"I don't know what else we have to do to hammer this message home," said Idzenga. "I don't think people will understand the consequences."

Not like police are surprising people with the spot checks.

The RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving

Everywhere) program is well-advertised in newspapers, on television and on the radio. Yet, as Idzenga points out, "they're still not getting the message."

Friday night, the NRP checked the drivers of 600 cars at a roadside checkpoint in St. Catharines. Four people were arrested for blowing over the legal limit of a .08% blood alcohol level.

"That's pretty high," said NRP Sgt. Darrin Forbes. "Our concern is road safety and impaired driving is a big component of that."

"Until we go out and catch no one drinking and driving out there, it will continue to be a concern," he said.

Both the NRP and OPP said roadside checks will continue through the Christmas season.

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I would like to
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for your business and support.
Wishing you many blessings for the
New Year.
Sincerely, Bev Wiebe & Family
Looking forward to hearing from you in the New Year.
Bev Wiebe
Sales Representative
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 22 - FESTIVAL THEATRE 3PM

W.E.

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 29 - FESTIVAL THEATRE 3PM

SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN

Iwan McGregor and Emily Blunt star in this charming romance. A fantastically witty script and a fun, unpredictable ride.

Fall 2013 Film Series at shawfest.com/films

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Gift basket winners



Erin Lemoine, recreation therapist at the NOTL Hospital, with hospital auxiliary member Peggy Miller and auxiliary president Moyra McEachern pick the winners of the annual gift basket raffle—J. Penic and Mary Bevins, both locals, were the lucky winners. The draw earned \$2,400 to pay for blood pressure monitoring equipment for the NOTL Hospital.

Friday Night TAPAS!

Chef Therese DeGrace invites you to a complimentary wine pairing and tapas demonstration at Cannery Restaurant.

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Idea of an indoor pool in NOTL floated by resident looking for support

Could be more affordable than we think

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Community activist Paolo Miele has a new cause, and he is looking for support.

He believes it's time for his community to have an indoor swimming pool.

Miele is a local parent and the busy owner of two diners.

He became an activist when he began lobbying vigorously to keep Niagara District Secondary School open, and when that failed, ran for the position of school board trustee. Although he didn't receive enough votes to be elected, he did get the most votes from Niagara-on-the-Lake, and continues in his role as an education watchdog and as a thorn in the sides of board staff and trustees.

Locally, he's the vice-chair of the community planning committee, and a member of the Virgil Business Association.

He recently set up a facebook page to gather support for an indoor pool. Although he has received some encouragement, he hasn't attracted a huge following for his cause.

He understands there is concern over cost, both in construction and ongoing maintenance, but he feels it wouldn't be as much as a burden to the

taxpayer as some might believe.

"The idea's been floating around for a long time," he says. "We have a small group of people chatting about it behind the scenes, and we think it's time to put it out there, to see if there is support."

It was more than a decade ago when it was revealed that both town pools were in rough shape—St. David's needed costly repairs, Memorial Park needed to be replaced.

There was talk then about replacing those two pools with one indoor, but in addition to the cost concern, there was opposition from residents who wanted to keep their neighbourhood indoor pools open.

During early discussions about the design of the new community centre, the topic resurfaced, but the cost was determined to be prohibitive.

Miele isn't convinced the town can't afford it, but he says all he is trying to do is open a debate to see if there is support for the idea.

It concerns him that money that could be spent in town is going to other municip-

alities and organizations to support their pools, and that kids have to leave their community to swim all but two months of the year.

"I know it's going to cost money to build it and to maintain it. But we could charge \$300 to \$400 to families for a yearly membership, and that could go toward maintenance costs."

Miele is pegging the operating costs at \$300,000—and communities with populations not much larger than NOTL manage to afford indoor pools, he says.

Costs are just speculation at this point, he adds—but we do know there are a lot of people in town who would love to use it, and we know that it would provide jobs. It would provide a safe activity for kids, a place for family activities, a place that would bring families together."

The community is growing, there is an increasing commercial tax base, and maybe an indoor pool is more affordable than we think, says Miele—and pursuing private partnerships would be an option.

"Once we have a small

group of people working on this we'll investigate the possibilities and offer a business plan," he said. "We just have to get the discussion going."

Parks and recreation director Clive Buist has been part of the discussion in the past. He maintains the cost of operation is the biggest hurdle for a small municipality.

A rough estimate would be an annual deficit of at least

\$300,000, said Buist—and that's on the low side. There are many factors that would have to be considered, chiefly the size and design of the pool, how many people would use it and how much they would be charged, before providing an accurate figure.

"It's difficult to justify the operation costs, which are extremely high," he said.

Although there are other municipalities with small populations that manage, they draw people from surrounding communities.

"No one will come into our area—that just isn't going to happen. Our surrounding communities have their own pools. We would only have our own population, and that's not enough to justify such a huge expense."

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Splashpad nears completion

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

It's a bright, mild afternoon, and even though it's December, the blue sky and warmth of the sun make it easy to picture water spurt-

ing from the brightly coloured nozzles attached to the twirly shapes of the splashpad components as excited youngsters race from one to the other, screaming the way kids do when they're having a blast.

Workers have also been

making the most of the mild spell, putting the roof on the pavilion beside the concrete pad. The pavilion is on schedule to be completed before the worst of the winter weather hits.

By next summer, kids of all ages will be able to cool



Work is almost finished on the \$500,000 splash pad and pavilion in the Virgil sports park, and so far, on time and on budget.

Sue Tasker
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There's a mound of dirt off to the side, enjoyed at the moment by adventurous kids and dogs, that represents the hole in the ground underneath the pavilion, where a concrete tank will hold 100,000 litres of water that has cooled off kids and provided their entertainment under the splashpad components.

There are connections from the tank to the soccer field's irrigation system, and as well, the water can be siphoned to the watering

tanks on town trucks to water the flower baskets and beds that beautify the town in summer.

The splashpad components were chosen from the best designs that require the least amount of maintenance, while appealing to the widest age group—from toddlers to teens.

In one corner are three spray cannons, designed to interest older kids, there is a toddler area, with a 'tot twister, three water 'jellies' which are designed for younger kids, and other components for those in between, as well as a trio of buckets for all ages.

An activator will ensure the water is only turned on when kids are there to play.

Work is on schedule, and so far coming in on its \$500,000 budget—there have been no surprises, at least not yet, says Buist—so that the official opening can be held during the Victoria Day long weekend.

Virgil Stamped, since the Virgil Business Association is contributing \$125,000, raised at the annual event, toward the construction.

The hope at the moment, Buist says, is that the budget will also cover the cost of surveillance cameras.

Any extras, such as playground equipment near by, will have to be paid for by additional community fundraising, he said.

"Everything's looking good. It should be a great facility, and we hope to see families from all over town using it."

Three strong candidates vying for right to represent provincial Niagara PCs

Timing is right for candidates politically, and personally

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

A Niagara-on-the-Lake businessman and two regional councillors are in the running to become the next Progressive Conservative candidate for the Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie riding.

Niagara Falls regional councillors Bart Maves and Barbara Greenwood, and Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club owner John Wiens are vying for the nomination.

Niagara-on-the-Lake farmer and businessman George Lepp, who was the riding's unsuccessful PC candidate against Liberal Kim Craitor during the 2011 provincial election, also filed nomination papers, but was disqualified with withdrawing and is instead supporting Maves, who was a Niagara Falls MPP from 2005 to 2009.

The PC riding association has scheduled a Jan. 23 nomination meeting at the Americana Hotel, where the winner will be declared.

Barbara Greenwood is no stranger to politics. Now mid-way through her second term on regional council, she has worked behind the scenes on campaigns for Maves, who was an MPP in Niagara for two terms, and spent three years, from 2000 to 2003, working for him.

She set up Rob Nicholson's campaign office when he ran in the riding in the federal election, than ran his office once he was elected, until 2006, when she decided it was time to make the move to an elected role and ran for regional council.

She says it's partly her role as regional councillor, co-chairing the public health committee, that has motivated her to try to make a move to provincial politics.

"I've had an opportunity to really see what's happen-



Barbara Greenwood

ing in the Niagara Region," she says.

"I know we need to make the provincial government more aware of our needs here in Niagara."

She says she sees first hand how difficult it can be for people in the region, as the result of small business and manufacturing closures and the resulting job losses.

"We've had a 47 per cent increase in the past two years in the need for social services. It's creeping up on us. And the province has cut back. And the province has cut back on social assistance," she said.

"And we have a lot of working poor, families where both parents are working, but not making enough to bring them up above the poverty line."

That has to change, she says. "I know I can make a difference."

Through her church, she helps deliver food weekly to Project Share, so she sees how necessary that help is to many families.

"I believe I'm up for the job," she says.

I feel I'm capable of looking after the Niagara area. I want to see us prosper again. I want to see us moving forward again. It's all about working together. If we speak with one voice the province is going to listen.

The life-long Niagara Falls resident has earned a reputation in her community for volunteerism, especially with the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara Foundation, as the vice-president and fund development chair-

person. She has earned the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara Volunteer of the Year award four times: from 2006 to 2009, and is a member of the Niagara Falls Rotary Club and a recipient of the Paul Harris Award 2006.

Greenwood has been a volunteer with the Air Cadets and the Red Cross for 10 years.

Maves is midway through his first term on regional council. He became MPP for the Niagara riding in 1995, was defeated by Liberal Kim Craitor in 2003 and currently owns and operates Sterlingbridge Marketing and Communications.

He compares the Niagara today to the riding he took following the defeat of the Bob Rae NDP government in 1995—Niagara has been devastated in the past eight years, he says. There is high unemployment, the number of people on welfare continues to grow, there is a huge deficit—the provincial debt doubled in eight years under the Liberals—there are constituents who don't know if they will continue to have jobs next year, and the proposed opening of a casino in Ontario would further decimate the employment rate and the economy locally.

"There has been terrible



Bart Maves

mismanagement. My kids and eventually my grandchildren will pay for the mistakes being made today by the Liberals."

Maves points to some of his accomplishments in office: two casinos in Niagara while keeping one out of Toronto; major expansion at the Shaw Festival with support from his government; and VQA legislation that helped wineries.

He would like to continue work on cutting red tape for farmers and small businesses, which is crippling their operations.

In 1995, "we came in and balanced the budget, and Ontario had the highest growth rate in the country—in North America, for that

matter," said Maves.

"I'm so disappointed in the state of the province and the local economy, and I think I can do something about it. I feel with my experience I can help find solutions. That's why I'm throwing my hat in the ring."

He points to Greenwood and Wiens as strong opponents, but says, "When I made my decision, it wasn't based on who else is running. The time is right for me and I feel I'm the best person for the job. I know where to go and how to get things done. There is no learning curve for me."

He has been a supporter of the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club for many years and is a past member of its board of directors. He spent many years coaching high school basketball, minor league baseball and hockey. He also volunteers for several community groups.

John Wiens is known locally as the consummate volunteer and being a "nice guy," but that won't ham-

per him if he earns the right to represent his riding at Queen's Park, he says.

"Being a nice guy can go hand in hand with being a politician," says Wiens.

"I can stand up for myself in rough situations. I've been in awkward spots before and I have learned to make things work. I will work hard and be committed. I know what's right and what's wrong, and I can take a different approach than back-room dealing."

Wiens has always been front and centre as a volunteer—the list of NOT in our back yard projects that have had his support is long, from the Chamber of Commerce, the Shaw Festival and the Christmas Parade, to many important and successful fundraisers, the provincial tourism board, the education council, and setting up hospitality programs for college and universities.

And yet, he says, he has never been far from politics.

See Page 25

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Maple Leaf Fudge employee Kathy, presents Sydney Lament with a gift basket, the prize she received for her entry in the Niagara Advance Colouring Contest.

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Brooke Harland receives her gift basket from Maple Leaf Fudge employee Charlotte Buckle, her prize for her entry in the Niagara Advance Colouring Contest.



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Herminson, Jefferson, Ferney and Yhorbey Fandino were at the Court House Thursday with principal Marian Reimer Friesen to receive the proceeds from the Chamber of Commerce Candlelight Stroll to help their family, recently arrived from Columbia, at Christmas, and to deliver candy for all the children from Chamber executive director Janice Thomson to Crossroads students in thanks for the decorations they made for the Crossroads Christmas tree.

Christmas Greetings

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*"As Shepherds watched
and angels sang from
darkest night till morn,
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of Christmas live in
your hearts this Season
and remain throughout
the year.*

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NOTL Figure Skating Club member Sarah Laughton visits Santa at the NOTL Public Library, hoping to receive a particular skating bag to transport her equipment to the arena when she skates.

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The Boys Club donates 1,100 pounds to help Newark Neighbours

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

As Newark Neighbours fills boxes this week to feed the needy over the holidays, they have 1,100 pounds of food donated by a group of boys to help them in their task.

The Boys Club, which meets at Bethany Mennonite Church, is for boys from Grades 1 to 6, the majority of them from the community, not the church congregation.

It's a club that has a history in the community, says volunteer organizer Allen Warkentine—after a break of a few years, it started up again seven years ago, and peaked at 65 members.

It's still strong at 36 boys, and it continues an annual tradition of a food drive at Christmas for Newark, averaging about 1,000 pounds of food a year.

Parents are asked not to empty their cupboards—the boys are encouraged to do some chores at home so that they feel they are helping out themselves, earning the food and putting forth some personal effort to add to the

collection, says Warkentine.

"We emphasize that there are families who are in need in Niagara-on-the-Lake," he says, "and although it's a slow process, we can see that the boys are coming to understand that."

The group meets at the church every other Wednesday, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. A core group of five volunteers, plus some dads who help out, lead the boys through crafts, at least 25 minutes of physical activity with indoor sports such as dodge ball or floor hockey, and a 10-minute story time at the end of the meeting, which has a religious component.

"We're not trying to indoctrinate the kids, that's not the reason for the club," says Warkentine.

"They're having fun and learning a little bit about what being a Christian means."

The crafts, such as building model airplanes, are kept simple, he says.

"We find the kids aren't doing those kinds of things at home very much any more—they're more likely to spend time on computers. We find they really enjoy

the crafts, because it's an activity they wouldn't do otherwise and it's new to them. They're learning new skills, at a very elementary level, but they're having a blast while they're learning. They are also learning how to interact with adults in a respectful way."

They hold a fundraising movie night occasionally, and when there's enough snow, they have a tobogganing event.

Special games nights provide an opportunity for fathers and grandfathers to participate.

To wrap up the season, the boys have an annual cub-car rally, with small cars they've made themselves out of blocks of wood (the younger boys receive assistance from volunteers), and an opportunity to race them on a wooden ramp.

There are several prizes and trophies—for the best style of car, the fastest, etc., says Warkentine, and the boys really look forward to the event.

For more information about the club, which will begin meeting again in January, call the church at 905-468-3505.



PENNY COLES Niagara Advance
Newark volunteer Ron Thiessen and Boys Club leader Allen Warkentine unload a van-load of food collected for Newark Neighbours to help those in need at Christmas.



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Video Gallery independent still in business

When Bert and Anne Pynenburg took over the Video Gallery on Mary Street 25 years ago, theirs was one of many independently-owned video stores.

It's a tough business these days, with even the large video stores going by the wayside, but Bert retains enough loyal customers to make the business viable, he says.

His customers used to be mainly young people, but now are mostly seniors looking for classics, he says.

As proof of the difference in clientele, Bert points to the most popular movie the year they opened: it was *Lethal Weapon*, a violent action-packed thriller.

In 2012, he says, it was *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, about a group of British seniors who plan to spend their retirement in India.

When he opened, Beta and VHS were the formats for videos, not the DVD and Blue Ray of today, and there were virtually no movies sold at the retail store except for a few Disney titles—most videos

cost almost \$100 wholesale, he says.

Their first employee was Rachel, their daughter, and Anne and Bert are these days back to working most shifts themselves.

although they have a part-time movie enthusiast they can call on when they need help.

What hasn't changed is that it's still a fun business with some awesome customers, says Bert.



Bert and Anne Pynenburg celebrated 25 years in business Saturday, with help from part-time employee Greg McQueen.

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St. Michael lightening strikes – busy month leading up to the holidays

**Freddy D'Angelo, Andy Berti
and Bethany Polli**
Grade 5/6

As the Christmas holiday approaches we wish all our friends, family, and the NOTL community a safe and Merry Christmas.

We also keep in our thoughts those who are in need of an extra prayer this Christmas, especially those in Newtown.

In school news, our Glee club, under the singing expertise of Mrs. Pietsch and Mrs. Mangitay has been practising for weeks. They were recently heard singing on our NOTL Christmas parade float and also at the Fairview Mall. They sing upbeat and happy carols which really bring in the spirit of Christmas cheer.

In Mathletes, our math team of Grade 8s Tommy Liang, Emma Liang, Shaun Donnelly, and Max Braut placed first at the Holy



**St. Michael
Catholic School
In the Classroom**

Cross schools tournament and then went on to place fourth at the Board office finals.

Emma Liang is also an artist and her Christmas picture was chosen as one of the Christmas cards that the Niagara Catholic School Board will be using this year.

In penny news, our Grade 7 class started us off with collecting the pennies and in total our school collected 21 bags of pennies totalling \$525. All this is to help provide fresh water for

families in third world countries.

Our Grade 6 and 8 classes collected \$250 for the Nick Roma fund. And now the grade 7s are beginning to save for the "Adopt a Village" program, looking to adopt a village in Africa.

Our Lego Club recently competed at Niagara College. The team did a great job working together and programming their robot to complete many tasks.

Dec. 13 we held our Grade 5 and Grade 7 Science Fair. Students came in with awesome projects: from making clouds to discussing how a jet engine works, to ocean motion and plant producing oxygen all were fantastic projects.

Of course, only some can win. Grade 5 winners: 1st Bethany Polli, 2nd Katja Murray, 3rd Julian Harrington; Grade 7 winners: 1st Kyle Legros, 2nd



Alana Ward, Michael Sanders, Morgan Buis and Isabella Galbraith all take on Bones and the Ice Dogs in a friendly game when the Ice Dogs visited St. Michael last week. The hockey players talked to students about the importance of health and nutrition and working hard in school to be well-rounded.

Zoe Taylor, 3rd; Natasha Pilitteri. We had so many top projects we

also would like to congratulate our honourable mention students. This is our team for continuing on to

the Niagara Regional Science Fair in March.

So we will be updating you later on their results.

Lastly, our primary students have been working very hard learning their lines and singing songs, working on their acting preparing for our Christmas Musical: Once Upon a Starry Night, held Wednesday Dec. 19.

Parents, grandparents, and our school all saw a wonderful play, all about the birth of Jesus as told by the stars that glorious night! Standing ovations to all the students and their teachers for this.

Peace, Hope, and Joy, our Christmas wish for you all.

VOTE FOR THE SPIRIT OF NIAGARA



Nominations for the Spirit of Niagara awards on January 29, 2013 are open until 5pm on January 18th and can be submitted online by completing the nomination forms at www.niagaraonthelake.com/page/san

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Recognizing 30 years



Lord Mayor Dave Eke presents Ursula Kucharski, chair and Sue D'Sousa, co-chair, with a certificate for the 30th anniversary of the University Women in Niagara-on-the-Lake at their recent celebration at the community centre: a Champagne and Memories evening. The women hold their meetings the first Wednesday of each month at The Simpson Room in the community centre. They are committed to improving the status of women and girls, promoting quality public education and advancing the status of women, human rights, justice and peace.



Moving concert

The choral concert held in St. Andrews Church Saturday evening included three choirs and the congregation had a chance to join in favourite Christmas hymns. Mendelk Hoskstra, the Director of Collegium Musicum, announced a change to the program—due to the tragic news from the US Friday his choir sang "Prayer of the Children." The silence at the end said it all—there wasn't a dry eye in the church.

Merry Christmas

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Preparing candidate for election won't be difficult, riding president says

From Page 15

His father was a strong supporter of the Conservatives, and John has continued that tradition, raising funds, working behind the scenes, and helping on election campaigns going door-to-door, although most of his time was spent working with the business community, he says.



John Wiens

But he was always too involved in his own career to run himself.

After his family sold the house, he and his father built the Gateway at Glendale, and then purchased the Afruketh property on John Street, which they renovated and opened as Riverbend Inn. Shortly after that they bought the NOTL Golf Club, which they also renovated.

But then, during tough economic times, Riverbend and the golf club ended up in receivership.

Working through a difficult time was an experience that made him stronger, he said. Riverbend was sold, and he now concentrates on running the golf club, with partners.

And he feels, with support from friends and family, that now is the time to enter the fray of politics.

"I feel I'm a true leader, and people tend to follow me. I also tend to be humble. Nobody knows me as a person who would say, 'hey, look at me, look at what I've done'; that's not in my nature. But it is in my nature to assemble a group of people and get a job done. I have a strong work ethic, and I'm up for this challenge, but it's not for any other reason than to do good."

Wiens says he still has lots

left in him to give, and now is the time to give it. He is excited about the PC White Paper and a platform that will help small business, a platform he can get behind and support.

Kainer Hummel, president of the provincial Progressive Conservative Niagara Falls riding, says the riding is fortunate to have three strong candidates hoping to represent the riding in the next provincial election.

It may be the political climate and a sense that change is in the air, it could be frustration over the current state

of the provincial economy or a reaction to the Liberal scandals before the premier stepped down and pro-longed parliament—likely for all three candidates the decision to run is a combination of factors, says Hummel, including good timing in their personal lives.

But their decision to run means whatever happens at the nomination meeting, the riding will be well-represented.

"John Wiens was courted a number of years ago, but the time wasn't right - he's

definitely reached a level of frustration where he's ready to run. Bart Maves said he wouldn't do anything more in provincial politics until his kids were in high school, but he is feeling a considerable amount of frustration. He sees how provincial legislation affects the municipal and regional government—that would be obvious to Barbara Greenwood as well," said Hummel.

An election could be called by the new premier immediately after he's chosen on Jan. 25, or parliament

could resume with a throne speech and a budget debate and vote that would put an end to the government and mean an election some time later in the spring.

Either way, he said, the PCs will be ready. "It's just a matter of getting our candidate up to speed, and none of them are neophytes—it won't be difficult."

Linda Attioe, Psychotherapist



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Jan 15th 2012

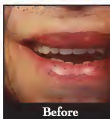
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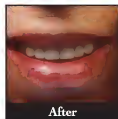
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School donates to Newark Neighbours

Melissa Mangelsen
Niagara Advance

St. Davids Public School raised close to \$300 in Canadian Tire money to donate to Newark Neighbours.

The fundraiser for Newark is something that teacher Ken Lamb has been organizing since he joined the fac-

ulty at the school 15 years ago.

Barbara Ahluwalia, president of Newark Neighbours said they have a shortage of gifts for older kids at Christmas, and the Canadian Tire money will help to fill that gap. Newark is currently helping about 40 families.

Lamb said the class that raised the most Canadian

Tire money will be treated to a movie and pizza party. Additionally, Lamb would pick a few students and head to Canadian Tire to physically purchase the toys for Newark Neighbours, but not this year, due to job actions.

"This has been really successful over the years and I'm really proud to be a part of it," said Lamb.



MELISSA MANGELSEN Niagara Advance

Barbara Ahluwalia, Newark Neighbours, Isabella Pasco (back), Grade 6, Josh Pasco, Grade 3, Logan Warner, Grade 3/4, Jordana Parliament, Grade 3/4, Bosten Parliament, Grade 6, Mac Armstrong, Grade 4/5, Jake Ledwez, Grade 8, principal Tammy Chilcott, Ken Lamb, teacher, and Jenna Ostrowski (front), Grade 6, Michelle Lian, Grade 2/3, Noah Smith, Kindergarten, Jade Swanson, Grade 1, Kylie Black, Grade 1/2, Sophia Kelly, Grade 1/2, Hannah Gilcrest, Kindergarten.

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Spreading Christmas cheer



The Chautauqua Neighbourhood Christmas Carol Stroll took place with over 60 carolers strolling through the streets of Chautauqua singing well-known Christmas songs Friday night. They were led by horse and sleigh. Above right, Santa delighted carolers with a surprise visit at the end of the stroll. Singers collected food and clothing to help Newark Neighbours.



Appreciating support

From Page 8

We're also raising money with a special Christmas book sale this year.

There's fiction, non-fiction, hardcover, paperback and children's books for sale by donation with NOTL Public Library book bags on sale for \$5. You'll find something for everyone on your Christmas gift list and all proceeds benefit library programs and services.

Another great gift for the book lover in your life is tickets to our Wine & Words author series.

Individual tickets are \$25 and the entire series of six is \$125. Each author will read at a different winery and sign their latest book during a reception following a question and answer session. Visit our web site for full details and drop by the library to borrow copies of the authors' books.

Congratulations to Dr. Bill Brown on receiving the Town of NOTL Volunteer Award For Education. Dr. Brown created the library's InfoHealth series to educate our community about important health issues and he has recognized for his efforts during the 17th annual Volunteer Recognition Award ceremony at the Town Hall. We would like to thank Dr. Brown for creating such a wonderful program and for all his hard work organizing monthly InfoHealth sessions.

On behalf of library staff and board members, I would also like to thank everyone for supporting their public library this year and we wish everyone a very, merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

All the best to you in 2013.

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European model shown. Features and equipment may vary in Canada. Lease offers based on a new 2013 BMW 328i xDrive Sedan Classic Line available only through BMW Financial Services Canada on approved credit (OAC) MSRP for the 2013 BMW 328i xDrive Sedan Classic Line starts at \$52,000. MSRP of a 4% applies. Lease example based on \$380/\$450/\$520 a month for 48 months. Down payment or trade-in equivalent of \$5,900/\$2,900/\$0. Monthly payments are approximately one month in advance, and applicable taxes due at lease inception. Total obligation is \$24,388/\$20,900/\$18,700 plus GST. The residual value of the vehicle at the end of the term for the BMW 328i xDrive Sedan Classic Line is \$20,700. Additional options and taxes are extra. Annual Mileage Limit: 11,000 km. To join lease-to-own: Down payment or trade-in of up to \$2,900. Insurance, maintenance, registration, taxes, GST/HST, title, licence, and delivery fees and similar fees listed in the lease agreement are charged by the lessor, and \$750 is an extra. Additional down-payment fees, taxes, and charges may be included in the lease. Schedule and time to complete process and check-out/return fees, which may change the MSRP at the start of the vehicle. Offer expires December 31, 2012. Drive away for less than \$1,000 per month. Offer is subject to credit review and may be cancelled or changed without notice. Certain conditions apply. See Performance BMW or contact local dealer. *Canadian Manufacturers' Association. †Permitted for details. ©2012 BMW Canada Inc. "BMW", the BMW logo, BMW model designations and all other BMW related marks, images and symbols are the exclusive property and/or trademarks of BMW AG, used under license.

Sports

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Sat., Dec. 22, 2012
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The Gallery Players of Niagara is a Not-for-Profit charitable organization.

Novice Wolves win over Pelham

The Niagara on the Lake novice Wolves dominated Pelham Saturday, picking up a convincing 7-3 victory. With speed and skill,

Gannon Duffy netted four goals for the St. Davids Firefighters. He had support padding their lead by Abbey Penner who scored two

goals. Madison Glampa picked up a goal as well. The game was played at the Virgil Arena.



All-Green Irrigation peewee Haiden O'Toole clears the net for teammate goalie Austyn Wersthorf Saturday. The Niagara team played Welland, a tough single A team, and played hard with a final 7-2 loss, with great goals from Robbie Falk and Nick Frendo.

Happy Holidays

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Good results for figure skaters

Ten members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Skating Club travelled to Tillsonburg to compete in the John McKay Invitational Competition. Results are as follows: For Interpretive Hailey Gaio brought home a bronze.

Alyssa Hunter was first in STARskate Preliminary, while Rachel Hunter was first in STARskate Pre-Preliminary.

Kyra Marotta was first in WO Development Level Two and Angelina Maniatis was third in WO Development Level 1.

Hailey Gaio was seventh in STARskate Junior Silver and Marin McLaughlin was also seventh in

STARskate Pre-Preliminary.

Lexie Madsen finished eighth in Bronze Interpretive and Taylor MacLachlan finished 10th in STARskate Junior Bronze.

Lexie Madsen also finished 11th in STARskate Senior Bronze.

Registration for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Skating Club Winter Session Learn to Skate programs will be taking place Thursday, Dec. 20, from 4 to 6 p.m., in the Centennial Arena and Saturday Dec. 22, from 3 to 6 p.m., at the MCU Arena lobby.

There is a \$10 discount for new and returning skaters if they are registered prior to Dec. 23.



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Rangers come home with fourth

The Niagara Rangers major midget girls basketball team fought hard in their first tournament, coming home with a fourth place finish.

Their first game in the St. Catharines Rebels tournament was against the Grimsby Grizzlies and the Rangers powered their way to a 52-28 victory.

Sarah Holmes netted 13 points while both Rebecca Fuaco and Emily Naccarato had 10 points. The team worked together firing on all cylinders to pick up the win.

Their second game was another high scoring battle as they took on Hamilton. Lexy Parkin

had 20 points, Fuaco had 15 and Naccarato netted 14 to lead the team to a 71-53 victory.

The girls came up against their third win against the Brampton Warriors. Naccarato had 19 points, Fuaco had 16 and Leah Bracken picked up nine to lead them to a win in a scrappy 57-51 tilt.

The Rangers faced a strong St. Catharines team in the semi-finals and the Rangers were unable to stop the Rebels, finishing with a 67-51 loss.

Parkin netted 13 points, Holmes had 10 and Bracken nine. The Rangers led at the half, but a weak third quarter was the

game breaker for the team.

In their fifth game, they had a rematch with the Warriors for the bronze but were defeated 59-58.

In the close game, Naccarato had 16 points, Parkin 12 and Fuaco 11.

The team found themselves down by 15 at one point in the game, but battled back and held a lead late in the game, when they ran out of gas down the stretch and lost the game by one point.

It was an exciting opening weekend for the team, playing with three new players this season (Grade 9s Bracken and Parkin and Grade 10 from

Centennial High School, Holmes).

Bracken provided outstanding guard play all weekend, along with Alysha Fontaine and Parkin. Fuaco, Naccarato and Holmes provided a strong inside presence.

The team was battling the flu bug as well.

Grace Edmonds played well despite battling a bug, Shannon Campbell and Lauren Bowman provided solid defence and overall play when called upon.

Up next for the major midget Rangers is a trip to Brantford, Jan. 11 to 13, in the Brantford CYO Classic.

Wolves pick up two wins

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association's Van Noort Florist bantam Wolves played two games last week, picking up wins in both of them.

The Wolves took on Grimsby Saturday and came away with a 6-2 victory.

Grimsby's goaltender Kyle Moken kept his team in the game with some great saves but despite his efforts the Wolves' strong offence found a way to end the back of the net and scored four unanswered goals.

Grimsby managed to get themselves on the scoreboard picking up two

goals of their own, but they weren't able to catch the Wolves who then added two more goals to pick up the win.

Jake Vanderveen had a hat trick for the Wolves and also assisted. Isaac Hendriks also had a four point game, netting two and two helpers. Ty Resche had a goal and an assist and Matt Puglisi had an assist.

The Wolves then hosted Grimsby and again came out strong. They were on the back of the net in the first period and didn't look back as they skated to a 8-3 victory.

See Page 32

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Rangers show improvement, working together

Red Klassen
Niagara Rangers

The Niagara Rangers novice boys basketball team entered Rebels basketball tournament this weekend and showed real improvement, coming together as a team.

The Rangers faced Hamilton first and came up short 27-19. The boys came out aggressive on defence while working hard on offence, keeping the game within reach.

The Rangers then faced the St. Catharines Rebels, losing to them for the sec-

ond time this season but holding them to a closer margin.

Great defence was displayed by Wesley Haun as he hustled under the boards. Harrison Gossen, Dylan Macdonald and Dylan Heidebrecht assisted in great defence also. Haun also added his first four points.

In their third game the Rangers faced the Niagara Falls Red Raiders and fell to a 32-25 decision. Topping the scoring was Trent Thorpe with 17 points, Lucas Klassen with four and Cameron Moss with two.



The Rangers novice boys are working hard and coming together as a team.

Busy week for Wolves

From Page 31

Highlighting the game was sharp passing, strong forechecking and solid defence. The game was a strong example of teamwork as every member on the team picked up at least one point during the game.

Hendriks scored two goals and two assists, and Vanderveen also had a double goal, double assist game.

Bowen Neufeld picked up a goal and

an assist and Matt Puglisi netted two goals. Hudson Neufeld had three assists, while Jake Eady had two. Single assists went to Justin Wormald, Nick VanEdmond, Mark Dyck and Matthew Caston.

The Wolves are looking ahead to a busy week as they travel to Pelham on Wednesday and play in Grimsby on Saturday, returning to home ice on Sunday.



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307 NASSAU STREET - \$789,000



NEW LISTING
This lovely family home, with guest cottage, is located in old town, just a short walk to the Lake and Golf course. The property is indeed delightful. Chris Bowron and Phyllis Henderson.

1994 YORK ROAD - \$899,000



Approximately 8000 square feet of finished living space set in gorgeous manicured grounds with wonderful escarpment views from the huge raised terrace. MLS# N30007977. Viviane Elliott and Thomas Elliott.

35 SHAW'S LANE - \$489,000



Extensive renovations in this bright and airy, and unit Freehold townhome on a quiet cul-de-sac. Numerous windows and vaulted ceilings offer abundance of natural light and open concept feeling. Large deck (10' x 15'). MLS# N30008282. Ralph Tallman.

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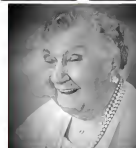
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CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 24 at 4:00 pm



LENARD, Elizabeth Anne
(Lenardowicz)

August 7, 1917-December 14, 2012. Passed away peacefully at Chateau Gardens Home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Predeceased by her husband Joseph, daughter Janie and two infant sons. Cherished mother of Terry Hutton of St. Catharines and Karen (Tom) McMillan of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Beloved father of Joshua Hutton, Nathan (Jill) Hutton, all of Chicago, El and Megan (Colin) Eves of Waterloo, ON. Great grandmother of Aiden, Chicago. El the family wish to extend a sincere thank you to all of the caring, loving and compassionate employees at Chateau Gardens. They all took wonderful care of our mother for the last 10 weeks and they are truly angels in our hearts. Elizabeth was at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chapel of the **MORGAN FUNERAL HOMES**, 415 Regent Street where the family received friends on Sunday, December 16, 2012 from 2-4 and 6-8 pm. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church on Monday morning, December 17, 2012 at 11 o'clock. Interment with Rite of Committal followed at Victoria Lawn Cemetery. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to Chateau Gardens Resident Entertainment Fund. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

A Memorial Service has been made to

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PLAYOAT, John William - passed away peacefully in his sleep at Greater Niagara Care Home on Dec 14, 2012. John was 82 years old. Beloved husband to Nancy (nee Biggs) for 32 years. Proud father to Shelley (Brad) House, Christine (Steve) Matheson and Bruce (Rachel) Playoat, and second father to Brad (Patricia) Waters and Penelope (Mark) Ewert. Special Pappy John to Griffin, David, Chloe and Allison. He will be fondly remembered by his niece and nephews Mike Raptis, Joanne Fraser and Steve Raptis. Predeceased by his sister Jean Raptis. John was an avid sportsman. His passion for a variety of sports began with earning his "Big Block" sweater playing varsity football for the University of British Columbia. After graduating from UBC with a bachelor degree in commerce, John went on to be a salesman with Hamilton Canada for the duration of his long and successful career. He enjoyed travelling, gardening and The Arts, spending much of his volunteer time at the Niagara Festival. He lived a rich and fulfilling life. He will be sadly missed by his family, many friends, colleagues and neighbours. In keeping with John's wishes cremation will take place. Funeral arrangements entrusted to **PLEASANTVIEW FUNERAL HOME 905-952-1899**. A private family service will be held at a later date. John will be interred at Highland Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations directed to the "Niagara Festival" will be appreciated by his family.

SIRKIN, Louis Leibel Doctor - May 1, 1929 - December 17, 2012. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Doctor Louis Leibel Sirkín who passed away on Monday, December 17th, surrounded by his loving family. He will be deeply mourned by Rachel, his loving wife of 52 years and his devoted children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Louis dedicated his life to healing the sick and was a gentle, selfless and compassionate man. His family is indebted to the staff of Chateau Gardens who embraced Louis with equal compassion and selfless care. Their love and professionalism lightened his suffering and strengthened his family. We are forever in their debt. In keeping with Louis' wishes, there will be a private service. Should you so wish, donations can be made to Parkinson's Research in memory of Louis, to help continue the fight against this disease.

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Rangers bantams end 2012 with two wins

Bruce Caughill
Niagara Rangers

The Niagara Rangers bantam girls basketball team hosted the Grimsby Grizzlies and the Ancaster Magic at the Crossroads Public School gym last week and came out with wins in both games, finishing 2012 with nine wins and six losses.

Their season so far has included one tournament silver medal, a first ever appearance in an American tournament and wins over several larger centres.

This is by far the most action the team has ever seen before Christmas and is a great start to the season as they move toward the provincial championships in April.

Both games saw total team effort with all players making significant contributions. Of note were Hailey

Matovic's season-high 18 points against Ancaster, the rebounding of the Alexis Smith and Jeniah Wiens duo, Rachel Frena's court leadership and Beth DeBoer's smothering defence.

Molly Bowron and Katie Van Igmund matched up well with Ancaster's size and against Grimsby particularly Katie Caughill and Katie Dunn showed great patience and hall control.

Morgan Buis' speed, Mackenzie Brown's always-solid passing and Carrie Robinson's offensive aggressiveness were a big part of both wins.

The Rangers now head into the holiday break and will resume action with a January tournament in Scarborough.

Katie Van Egmond (#11) goes up strong against Ancaster Magic player



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#3-222 Ricardo Street \$795,000

Gracious and Grande Greystone, one of the finest townhouse developments near the waterfront and backing on historic Fort George property. The private enclave in natural stone and cedar roofs is meticulously maintained. This home features granite kitchen, marble master ensuite bath, dramatic 2 storey great room with mantle fireplace, overlooking minstrel gallery- loft. Main floor den and all contained in a spacious 2800 square feet.



57 Delater Street \$1,295,000

Spectacular views, bubbling fountains and lush landscaping welcomes you to this fine riverside home. The dramatic open concept enjoys views to the Niagara River and historic Fort Niagara beyond. Only 3 blocks from The Prince of Wales Hotel & The Niagara Golf Club make this one of the best locations the Old Town has to offer. The layout of the home offers many unique features.



139 Victoria Street \$1,095,000

A grand old home in the Old Town, updated throughout with 5 bedrooms and 5 1/2 baths. Home to a very successful B & B 'Aberdeen' with fabulous open concept kitchen/family room, formal living and dining rooms. Third floor master suite is a luxurious retreat with great space and wonderful views!



310 Tanbark Road \$895,000

Wonderful sprawling custom built 3 bedroom, 3 ensuite bath bungalow on a fully fenced, treed estate lot. 9 ft ceilings with coffered, fabulous designer crystal chandelier. High end appliances in gourmet kitchen. Featuring an inground pool, expansive perennial gardens, covered patio and stylish pool side pergola.



298 Creek Rd. \$599,000

Perched along the Niagara Escarpment's lower bench, overlooking rolling vineyards, this contemporary residence provides a breathtaking lake view extending from Hamilton to Toronto. Open concept featuring gourmet kitchen opening onto great room and 2 bedroom suites.



20 Firelane 2B \$695,000

Luxurious lakefront living - enjoy spectacular sunsets & the peace and serenity of a constantly changing panorama of natural wonder. This all brick home features 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite and a full on lake view, full basement and two car attached garage.



175 Centre Street \$869,000

Gracious home with expansive rear decks and patio overlooking quiet river setting. The layout lends itself well to a B & B and also a great family home. Six bedrooms in all with one being the main floor master with ensuite, 3 bedrooms with ensuite on the second level and 2 more on the lower level with a large rec room. All this located in the heart of the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake providing all the conveniences of shopping, dining and visiting just a short walk away.



140 Carlton Street \$349,000

Enjoy all the benefits of country living in Niagara-on-the-Lake and get it all in a stone's throw from north and St. Catharines. Located near the Welland Canal, this solid brick home has been fully updated and modernized and offers many unique features including a full second floor balcony off the master, a truly family-sized kitchen with adjoining family room with fireplace. Beautifully finished rec room with beamed ceiling and dropped pot lighting, 4th bedroom. Well treed and private fenced rear yard.